

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022 at 8:31 a.m.

The Board met at the above-stated time to consider and take appropriate action on the items listed below.

Board Members present:

Marty Graham, Chairman
David Basinger, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
Jose Dodier, Jr., Member
Barry Mahler, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Operations & Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator & Invasive Species Coordinator
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ricky Johnson, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Kimberly Gamez, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Policy Advisor & Intergovernmental Affairs
T. J. Helton, Program Administrator
Liza Parker, Policy Analyst & Legislative Liaison
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jett Preston, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Daniel Blair, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Shannon Sullivan, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Molly Christensen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Ellie Larson, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Program Administrator & Regional Office Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Program Administrator & Engineer
Allen Nash, Engineer
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Marilyn Koelder, Administrative Assistant
Pamela Blanton, Administrative Assistant

SuLin Olvera, Administrative Assistant
Teresa Reese, Natural Resources Specialist
Mikel Thomas, Natural Resources Specialist
David Reyes, Natural Resources Specialist
Jeff Gatlin, Natural Resources Specialist
Megan Cirkles, Natural Resources Specialist
Clay Wright, Information Resources Manager
Karen Preece, Accountant

General Counsel:
Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present:

Kristy Oates, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kent Batman, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Monday Rufus, Monday Rufus & Co., P.C., Internal Auditor
Lauren Ames, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Andrew McConnell, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Katherine Durain, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
David Villarreal, Texas Department of Agriculture
Jason Briggs, Office of the Texas Governor
Elsa Murano, Texas A&M AgriLife
Lisa Prcin, Texas A&M AgriLife
Kyla Peterson, Texas Water Development Board
Grady Gibson, Hill Country Soil and Water Conservation District Director
Erin Oleksiuk
Christina Lopez
Rebecca Reeves

AGENDA ITEM 1: Videoconference Call Meeting

Board Member Mahler conducted meeting from headquarters in Temple.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Member Mahler called the meeting to order at 8:31, and then called roll of the Board Members. Ms. Buford and Mr. Polk, Jr. were not in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Excuse Any Absent Board Members

Mr. Graham moved for the approval to excuse Ms. Buford and Mr. Polk, Jr. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities Regarding Their Programs and Activities

There were no comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ms. Oates, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Ms. Oates stated that Covid operations are still at partial openings. Ms. Oates commented on Climate Smart Agriculture, the acceptance of project proposals for 2022, and the funding of that program. Ms. Oates commented on Urban Agriculture, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program Southern Border Infrastructure Initiative, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program, the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, and the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program Workshops. Ms. Oates stated that there was a community-based organization and partners virtual round table discussion, and she also commented on staffing issues.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Overview and Update on the Programs and Activities of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Mr. Batman, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Batman commented that Mr. Schilling and Mr. Hough are in Florida at the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, and that Mr. Thompson and Ms. Daniel are in Amarillo at the No Till Texas Conference. Mr. Batman commented on the upcoming Soil Health Conference in April to be held in Sweetwater, that the award entries are low this year, and that Stewardship and Public Information and Education Committees met in January.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Minutes from October 4, 2021 State Board Meeting

Ms. Preece previously emailed a copy of the minutes to Board Members for their review. Board Member Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Board Meeting.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments, including Vardeman, Cates, Hansen, Stein, Norton, Purswell, Peters, Suy, Perry III, Shamblin, Jenkins, Isbell, Strait

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lacy Vardeman, Lubbock County #108, Subdivision 5, Replace Phil Harrist
Mathew Cates, Lipscomb County #134, Subdivision 1, Replace Kay Duke
Kalan Steinle, Running Water #136, Subdivision 4, Replace Rex Lust
Torben Hansen, Ochiltree #142, Subdivision 5, Replace Diane Thorpe
Kristopher T. Dennison, Garza #158, Subdivision 4, Replace Danny Robertson
Wayne Stein, Medina Valley #226, Subdivision 3, Replace Richard Moos
Matt Norton, Midland #244, Subdivision 2, Replace Dustin Gragg (moving from subdivision 5 to 2)
Rodney Purswell, Caldwell-Travis #304, Subdivision 4, Replace Curby Ohnheiser
Brian Peters, Jackson #336, Subdivision 2, Replace Ronald Peters
Mickey (Bud) Wiley Carter, Jr., Sulphur-Cypress #419, Subdivision 1, Replace C. W. Forsyth
Chamroeun Lee Suy, Marion-Cass #433, Subdivision 1, Replace Fred Winters
Hershel Perry, III, Navasota #440, Subdivision 2, Replace William Thomas
Ronald H. Shamblin, Jasper-Newton #441, Subdivision 3, Replace Donice Martindale
Timothy Chad Jenkins, Lower Sabine-Neches #446, Subdivision 2, Replace J. B. Arrington
James Travis Isbell, Little River-San Gabriel #508, Subdivision 1, Replace Wess Jerry Cassens, Jr.
Heather Strait, Collin County #535, Subdivision 1, Replace R. E. Aycock, Jr.

AGENDA ITEM 10: State Board Member Elections Update

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: On-the-Ground Conservation Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Subdivision Boundary Changes to Navasota SWCD #440

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the changes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Subdivision Boundary Changes to Bastrop County SWCD #340

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the changes as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Intergovernmental Affairs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Internal Audit Report – Follow-up on Prior Internal Audit Recommendations of the Personnel Processes Report

Mr. Rufus reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the report as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Internal Audit Report of the Key Performance Measures

Mr. Rufus reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval of the report as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Fiscal Report for the 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2022

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of the budget request as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Agency Strategic Planning

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Feral Swine Control Pilot Program Status Report

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Mgmt Plans in Accordance with Title 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 523, Agriculture and Silviculture Quality Mgmt, Section 523.6(f)(4), Concerning Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests to consider at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Basinger moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Increase Maximum Cost-Share Allowed Per Operating Unit

Mr. Munz that there is no action to take at this time.

Mr. Mahler congratulated Mr. Munz on his children's livestock show winnings.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Communication Strategy Status Report

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Christensen stated that Ellie Larson has been hired as the new Public Affairs Specialist.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Review of 2021 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Planning of 2023 and 2024 Annual State Meeting of District Directors

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval to use Maritz for Requests for Proposals for 2024 Annual State Meeting. Mr. Dodier, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 33: 2021 Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Report Update

Ms. Christensen reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Human Resources Status Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

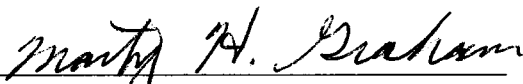
AGENDA ITEM 35: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

April 27, 2022, at headquarters in Temple at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Dodier, Jr. moved for the approval of date as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Isom and Mr. Graham thanked Mr. Mahler for traveling to Temple to conduct meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.



Marty H. Graham, Chairman

April 28, 2022
Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

April 28, 2022
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on February 15, 2022.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

April 28, 2022
Date